

March 21, 2006

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Guyton, Mauno, McIntyre, Nowatka, Scotto, Witkowsky, and Mayor Walker.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

Agenda Item 17 was considered out of order at this time.

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 17A) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9(a).

The Council reconvened in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Guyton

Councilmember Mauno gave the non-sectarian invocation.

**3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Walker asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of former City employee Richard Perkins who passed away on March 16, 2006. He noted that Mr. Perkins was involved in many major public works projects during his 38 years with the City and that he served as an example of excellence, diligence, dignity and grace in both his professional and private life.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. PROCLAMATION RE POLICE LIEUTENANT DEVIN CHASE**

Mayor Walker presented a proclamation to **Lieutenant Devin Chase** commending and congratulating him upon receiving the Alfred E. Stewart "Narc of the Year" Award for 2005 and for his dedication to the general welfare of the populace of Torrance.

Police Chief Herren congratulated Lieutenant Chase on receiving this prestigious award, noting that in addition to doing an excellent job in the interdiction of illegal narcotics locally, he has trained over 5000 police officers in foreign countries regarding drug enforcement techniques and ethical practices. Also in attendance: Police Captains Kevin Kreager, Dave Smith, Marc Wilkins. Lieutenants Tim Hillis, Rod Irvine, Pat Shortall, and Steve Unglaub.

**6B. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF DONATION FROM EXXON/MOBIL CORPORATION FOR 2006 GREEN TEAM SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council:

- 1) Accept a \$100,000 donation from Exxon/Mobil Corporation; and
- 2) Transfer the remaining appropriation of \$976 from the 2005 Green Team Summer Youth Employment Program (FEAP 505) to the 2006 Green Team Summer Youth Program (FEAP 547).

ExxonMobil representatives Pete Trelenberg, Refinery Manager, and Laura Paredes, West Region Public Affairs Advisor, presented a \$100,000 donation for the 2006 Green Team Summer Youth Program.

Councilmember Witkowsky recognized Torrance Unified School District representative Tim McClellan for doing an excellent job of overseeing the program.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**7A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 10 AND JANUARY 24, 2006**

**7B. PURCHASE/INSTALLATION OF RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Information Technology Director, Chief of Police, and Fire Chief** that Council:

- 1) Approve the purchase of 49 radio repeaters and receivers to support Police, Fire and Local Government radio communications;
- 2) Award a sole-source purchase order to Motorola, Inc., in care of Advanced Electronics, Inc., of Redondo Beach, CA, in the amount of \$508,385.74 for the purchase of new radio communication equipment; and
- 3) Award a separate purchase order to Advanced Electronics, Inc., of Gardena, CA, in the amount of \$22,540.00 for the purchase of professional services to install the communications equipment.

**7C. SALE OF SURPLUS/OBSELETE VEHICLES TO TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council authorize the sale of two (2) surplus/obsolete vehicles; one (1) to the Torrance Unified School District and one (1) to the Torrance Unified School District, J.R.O.T.C. Program for a total of \$713.00.

Considered separately, see page 4

**7D. MAP OF ECONOMIC CONFLICTS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Clerk** and the **City Attorney** that City Council receive and file the Map of Economic Conflicts (disclosure pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 33130(a).

Considered separately, see page 4.

**7E. PURCHASE/MAINTENANCE OF IMAGING AND DATABASE SYSTEM**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Information Technology Director** and the **Human Resources Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve an expenditure of \$91,000 for licensing and implementing the Document Imaging Module (GenARS) of the Workers' Compensation GenSource System;
- 2) Approve an expenditure of \$78,000 for GenSource to host, maintain, and support the imaging and database system as an Application Service Provider (ASP); and
- 3) Approve an expenditure of \$8,058 for the annual IBM Universe database licensing fee and the annual Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transmission update fees.

**7F. 2005-2006 MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW REPORT AND TREASURER'S INVESTMENT REPORT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Finance and Governmental Operations Committee** that City Council:

- 1) Accept the Mid Year 2005-2006 Budget Review Report, and
- 2) Accept the City Treasurer's Investment Report.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Mauno moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7A, 7B, 7E and 7F. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Consent Calendar Items 7C and 7D were considered separately at this time.

**7C. SALE OF SURPLUS/OBSOLETE VEHICLES TO TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council authorize the sale of two (2) surplus/obsolete vehicles; one (1) to the Torrance Unified School District and one (1) to the Torrance Unified School District, J.R.O.T.C. Program for a total of \$713.00.

Councilmember Scotto recommended that the vehicles be sold to the Torrance Unified School District for the amount of \$1.00 as has been the City's practice in the past.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to authorize the sale of the vehicles to Torrance Unified School District for a total of **\$1.00**. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Guyton and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**7D. MAP OF ECONOMIC CONFLICTS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Clerk** and the **City Attorney** that City Council receive and file the Map of Economic Conflicts (disclosure pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 33130(a). (Companion to Redevelopment Agency item)

Councilmember Scotto requested that the map be amended to reflect the correct name of **California Western Towing Equipment** instead of Competition Wheelift as listed on the map.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to receive and file the Map of Economic Conflicts as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**11A. STATE HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Public Works Director** that City Council:

- 1) Adopt a Resolution allowing the City of Torrance to enter into an agreement with the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the maintenance of State highways in the city of Torrance and repeal Resolution 74-280; and
- 2) Authorize and execute the State Highway Maintenance Agreement in the city of Torrance between the City of Torrance and the State of California Department of Transportation.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-20**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR MAINTENANCE OF DESIGNATED PORTIONS OF STATE HIGHWAYS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND REPEAL RESOLUTION NO. 74-280

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-20. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

#### **11B. RECOMMENDATIONS RE CLEAN AIR MANDATES**

##### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Alternative Fuels Strategy Committee** that City Council approve the recommendations made herein pursuant to ensuring the City's compliance with clean air mandates issued by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

Fleet Services Manager Winnett provided a brief summary of the Alternative Fuels Strategy Committee's recommendations concerning transit buses, refuse collection trucks, street sweepers and other heavy duty vehicles weighing 14,000 pounds or more, which were devised to ensure compliance with clean air mandates issued by the California Air Resources Board and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He noted that the committee was recommending that the service life of diesel-powered vehicles be prolonged wherever possible rather than replacing them with alternative fuel vehicles, which are more expensive to purchase and maintain, because advances in technology are expected to make diesel-powered vehicles run at least as clean as natural gas-powered vehicles by 2010.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the Alternative Fuels Strategy Committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

#### **11C. REVIEW OF 48/96 SHIFT SCHEDULE FOR FIREFIGHTERS**

##### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council review a report from the Joint Management and TFFA subcommittee evaluating the 48/96 work schedule and determine a subsequent course of action.

After review of the report, it is recommended that Council authorize one of the following actions:

- 1) Extend the trial period of the 48/96 shift schedule
- 2) Make the 48/96 shift schedule permanent
- 3) Discontinue the 48/96 shift schedule.

If Council authorizes a permanent shift schedule change, it is recommended that Council adopt supplemental Resolutions to the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for the TFFA and the Torrance Fire Chief Officers Association (TFCOA).

Fran Fulton, City Manager's office, briefly reviewed the findings in the subcommittee's report on the 48/96 shift schedule for firefighters, which was implemented at the end of 2004 on a trial basis.

Jeff Williams, representing Torrance Fire Fighters Association, reported that the 48/96 schedule has made it much easier for firefighters to pursue college degrees, reduced their commuting time, and greatly improved their quality of life.

Mayor Walker stated that the 48/96 shift schedule has worked incredibly well for both firefighters and the City and that he favored making it permanent.

In response to Councilmember Witkowsky's inquiry, Fire Chief Bongard discussed his concerns about the 48/96 shift schedule. He explained that it makes management of the department more difficult because of the 16 consecutive days each shift has off and the extended work shift has been shown to produce chronic fatigue, the long-term effects of which may not become apparent for several years.

Responding to questions from the Council, Chief Bongard reported that El Segundo, Redondo, Hermosa and Manhattan Beach all use the 48/96 shift schedule and that Manhattan Beach has been using it the longest, approximately 10 years. He noted that the 48/96 schedule works best for smaller cities that do not experience the volume of calls that Torrance does and related his understanding that San Bernardino, which is comparable in size to Torrance, is the only city in the Southern California area to reject the 48/96 schedule after trying it.

Mayor Walker noted that the City can always revisit this issue if problems develop.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved to make the 48/96 shift schedule permanent. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Guyton and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2006-21**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2005-75 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY TORRANCE FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION (TFFA)

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-21. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Guyton and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2006-22**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2005-105 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY TORRANCE FIRE CHIEF OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (TFCOA)

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-22. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

#### **11D. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF DONATIONS FOR ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION**

##### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Ad Hoc Armed Forces Day Committee** that City Council accept and appropriate \$38,450 in donations to be utilized for the City of Torrance annual Armed Forces Day celebration.

Councilmember Mauno, Chair of the Ad Hoc Armed Forces Day Committee, expressed appreciation to local businesses and others who have made donations to offset the costs of the City's annual Armed Forces Day celebration.

Councilmember Guyton commended Councilmember Witkowsky for her fundraising efforts, noting that she was responsible for securing a large part of the \$38,450 in donations.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Mauno moved to concur with the Ad Hoc Armed Forces Day Committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

## **12. HEARINGS**

### **12A. 2006 PHA ANNUAL PLAN FOR SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

#### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council conduct a public hearing, consider any comments received during the hearing, and approve the 2006 PHA Annual Plan for the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program.

Mayor Walker announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on the matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

In response to Councilmember Witkowsky's inquiry, Planning Manager Richardson reported on the status of the waiting list for Section 8 rental assistance, noting that approximately 5,000 people are on the waiting list at this time, a large percentage of which are senior citizens. She advised that the City will resume issuing housing vouchers to military veterans in the near future.

As no one came forward to speak, the public hearing was closed.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilmember Witkowsky related her experience that there are many seniors in Torrance seeking affordable housing and few landlords are willing to accept the Section 8 vouchers because the amount is so far below what an apartment would rent for in the open market. She requested, with the concurrence of Council, that staff draft a letter to Congressional representatives encouraging them to introduce legislation amending the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program to make the program more desirable for apartment owners to rent to people 55 years of age or older when there is a great disparity between the market rate for rentals and the voucher amount.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Guyton and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 7:55 p.m. to 7:57 p.m.

## **16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**16A.** City Manager Jackson commented on Dick Perkins' long career as a valued public servant and extended condolences to his family.

**16B.** City Clerk Herbers announced that information for the June 6, 2006 election was available on the City's website.

**16C.** Councilmember Guyton noted his attendance at the Torrance Fire Fighter Association Spaghetti dinner and congratulated them on the large turnout. He cited an example in which the Fire Department was able to contact a relative of someone found unconscious in a vehicle by using the “In Case of Emergency” (ICE) data entry on a cell phone.

**16D.** Councilmember Guyton announced that there would be a North Torrance High School all class reunion on April 22.

**16E.** Councilmember Mauno expressed condolences to the Perkins family.

**16F.** Councilmember Mauno congratulated the Torrance Fire Fighters on their annual spaghetti dinner.

**16G.** Councilmember Mauno noted that he was on hand to welcome soldiers of the 11<sup>th</sup> Cavalry from Ft. Irwin on their return from Iraq and some of them will be participating in the Armed Forces Day parade.

**16H.** Councilmember Mauno related his observation that cigarette butts litter the sand and pose a threat to the environment at Torrance Beach; noted that 2/3 of the beaches in Southern California are smoke free; and requested, with concurrence of the City Council, that the City Manager research and bring back information about establishing a smoke-free policy.

**16I.** Councilmember Nowatka expressed condolences to the Perkins family, stating that he was honored to have known him

**16J.** Councilmember Scotto echoed condolences to the Perkins family.

**16K.** Councilmember Scotto submitted a list of sites requiring handicapped ramps to the City Manager.

**16L.** Councilmember Scotto reported that Animal Control returned 217 dogs to their owners in 2005 for a return rate of over 80%, which is a vast improvement over the return rate when the City contracted with L.A. County for animal control services. He asked, with concurrence of the City Council, for recognition of National Animal Control Appreciation Week, April 9 through April 15.

**16M.** Councilmember Scotto stated that he enjoyed the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation’s Irish Celebration featuring the Irish Descendants, but was disappointed it was not completely sold out.

**16N.** Councilmember Witkowsky congratulated the Torrance Fire Fighters Association on their successful spaghetti dinner, noting that the proceeds benefit the Alisa Ann Rusch burn center.

**16O.** Councilmember Witkowsky reported on plans to tie yellow ribbons on trees along Torrance Boulevard for the Armed Forces Day parade in recognition of veterans who served in Iraq. She noted that the yellow ribbons will be tied on trees by students and alumni from Torrance high schools.



**16P.** Councilmember Witkowsky reported that she attended the National League of Cities conference in Washington, D.C., as a voting delegate the previous week and was joined by Councilmembers Nowatka and Guyton. She gave a brief review of subjects covered and noted meeting with Congresswoman Jane Harman and Senator Barbara Boxer.

**16Q.** Councilmember Witkowsky shared a story about Dick Perkins and the assistance he provided in setting up her first HAM radio.

**16R.** Mayor Walker commented on attending Richardson Middle School career day.

**16S.** Gordon Reiter, Via Corona, asked for assistance in the completion of street work on his block that has taken a lot longer than expected. Assurances were made that all efforts would be directed to the area weather permitting.

**16T.** Mary Reiter, Via Corona, suggested that smaller tasks could be completed while waiting for the asphalt to be poured.

**16U.** Jeffery Favor, Via Corona, expressed displeasure with the work done on his block.

**16V.** Bill Paul, Via Corona, commented on the inconvenience to residents caused by the street work.

**16W.** Tim Cummings thanked all for attending the 34<sup>th</sup> annual spaghetti dinner on behalf of TFFA. He noted that Helen Kitahata volunteered at 33 of the dinners, but missed this year's dinner due to ill health and reported that TFFA would be honoring her at a community awards luncheon in May.

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:34 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 28, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

***Adjourned in Memory of  
Richard Perkins***

Attest:

/s/ Dan Walker

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC

City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on May 9, 2006